



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

0047598
Public Health Service

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

JUL 10 1997

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Ms. Linda Bauer
Assistant Manager for Environmental Restoration
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Field Office
825 Jadwin Avenue
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352



Dear Ms. Bauer:

Enclosed is the quarterly report for the second quarter of
FY 1997, for activities conducted by the Agency for Toxic
Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at Department of Energy
(DOE) facilities.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation and support as we carry
out our programs with DOE.

Sincerely yours,

Mark M. Bashor, Ph.D.
Associate Administrator for
Federal Programs
Director, Office of Federal Programs

Enclosure

RECEIVED

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DOE-RL/DIS

**AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY
ACTIVITIES AT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FACILITIES
SECOND QUARTER, FISCAL YEAR 1997**

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND CONSULTATIONS

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY, NY

ATSDR continued to work on the health consultation concerning contaminated groundwater. DOE requested that ATSDR include monitoring data which has been generated since ATSDR drafted the groundwater health consultation in November 1996. ATSDR staff have completed the review and are revising the health consultation before release for public comment.

FERNALD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT, OH

On January 9-11 and March 14-15, 1997, ATSDR staff participated in the Fernald Citizen's Task Force meetings. On February 12-13, 1997, ATSDR staff attended the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee meeting to provide technical assistance and to gather information related to the Fernald public health assessment.

ATSDR staff collected and replaced ambient radon monitoring devices placed near site.

HANFORD RESERVATION, WA

On February 18, 1997, ATSDR staff met with the Intertribal Council for Hanford Health Projects (ITCHHP) to discuss tribal health concerns and mechanisms to incorporate tribal members and leaders in the public health assessment process.

LABORATORY FOR ENERGY-RELATED HEALTH RESEARCH, CA

On March 24, 1997, ATSDR completed the draft health consultation regarding fish sampled from Putah Creek. The health consultation has been submitted for classification review.

LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORIES, CA

ATSDR, in cooperation with the State of California Department of Health Services, initiated the public health assessment for the Lawrence Livermore Main Site and Site 300. To facilitate information gathering, ATSDR provided site personnel with a list of technical questions concerning the types of chemicals and radionuclides that have been used at the site, and analytical data available to characterized the levels of these agents in environmental media.

In March 1997, ATSDR and the State of California Department of Health Services staff met with the site team to discuss technical and community involvement issues related to the public health assessment process. The site team includes representatives of the public, TriValley Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment (CAREs), Rotary Club, Central Valley Water Control Board, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the site, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY, NM

ATSDR and EPA's National Air, Radiation and Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) downloaded quarterly air monitoring data from gamma air monitors located on a San Ildefonso Pueblo and other background locations from February 25-27, 1997. The data is a compilation of readings taken from the previous three months. Results will be analyzed to determine if nearby residents of the San Ildefonso Pueblo are being exposed to short lived gamma emitting radionuclides. The results will be incorporated into the public health assessment.

MONTICELLO MILL TAILINGS SITE, UT

The public comment period for the Monticello public health assessment ended on February 21, 1997. ATSDR is revising the public health assessment to clarify the conclusions and recommendations in response to comments received.

MOUND PLANT, OH

ATSDR staff presented the public comment release of the public health assessment at public meetings held in the Miamisburg Civic Center and at the plant.

PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT, KY

ATSDR staff continue to collect and review data. The public health assessment is being drafted this year.

PANTEX PLANT, TX

ATSDR and Texas Department of Public Health staff continue to review data and draft the public health assessment which is projected for release this year.

At the request of DOE, ATSDR staff evaluated sampling data from an off-site downgradient private well for potential adverse health effects from ingestion of contaminated groundwater. Upon evaluation of the data, ATSDR determined that contaminants detected were not at levels of public health concern.

DOE detected High Melting Explosive (HMX) at low levels in the off-site perched aquifer which is not utilized as a potable water source. ATSDR is currently assisting DOE in the production of a fact sheet on dermal exposure.

ROCKY FLATS, CO

The Rocky Flats Field Office requested that ATSDR review the contaminant data and interpretation of the Human Health Risk Assessment of the Operable Unit 3 (OU3) Remedial Investigation Report. They further requested that ATSDR focus on the adequacy of the selection of the contaminants of concern and the proposed actions.

Operable Unit 3 consists of 38 square miles of publicly accessible land outside the fenced boundaries of the DOE site. ATSDR concluded that:

- The concentration of heavy metal in environmental media (surface water, groundwater, and soils) are present at levels below health concern.
- Concentrations of the radioisotopes uranium and radium are present at naturally occurring concentrations and are not expected to result in any adverse health effects.
- The concentrations of most of the radioisotopes associated with either fallout or fission processes are not at levels of health concern. These isotopes include various cesium and strontium isotopes.
- The concentrations of plutonium and americium in surface water and groundwater are well below the proposed drinking water standards and are not considered a health concern.
- Evaluation of radioactive constituents detected in OU3 indicates that these levels do not pose a public health concern.

ATSDR agrees with the findings in the Human Health Risk Assessment in that the selection of contaminants of potential concern were based on reasonable assumptions. Furthermore, additional evaluation of these contaminants indicates that no additional remediation activities are needed to protect public health.

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE, SC

On February 27-28, 1997, ATSDR staff participated in the CDC-ATSDR Health Effects Subcommittee meeting. ATSDR staff also met with the Citizens for Environmental Justice.

HEALTH STUDIES

HANFORD RESERVATION, WA

Hanford Fetal Death and Infant Mortality Analysis Project: The purpose of this project is to determine whether rates of infant mortality and fetal death differ according to the Iodine-131 exposure classification of the mother's residence at the time of birth in an eight-county region near Hanford from 1940 through 1952. Data abstraction of birth, death, and fetal death certificates has been completed. Medical and occupational coding, along with geocoding of data, is in progress and is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter, FY 1997.

Iodine-131 Exposure Subregistry: The purpose of this study is to assess long-term health consequences to the general population from past exposure to Iodine-131 and other radionuclides. The protocol has been written and approved, the questionnaire created, the ATSDR Internal Review Board approvals obtained, and contractor work orders written for data collection. The protocol was submitted to the Washington State Human Research Review Section in the first quarter of FY 1997 for review and approval. This review continued through the second quarter of FY 1997. ATSDR has submitted a supplemental budget request to DOE to support conduct of the study.

Medical Monitoring: In coordination with the Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee and an expert working group, ATSDR developed a draft document entitled "Consideration of Medical Monitoring at Hanford." An initial medical monitoring program would provide medical evaluation of thyroid and parathyroid conditions for eligible clients and refer them for further evaluation and, as appropriate, treatment. The document has completed technical and peer review. ATSDR determined that a medical monitoring program should be initiated. ATSDR has submitted a supplemental budget request to DOE to support conduct of the project.

HEALTH EDUCATION

HANFORD RESERVATION, WA

ATSDR staff prepared and presented a format for surveying tribal capacities to address issues related to Hanford. The instrument prepared is designed to assist each tribal organization in identifying resources available to address tribal concerns about possible exposure to its members. ATSDR staff conducted an education session to present the survey instrument and train tribal representatives.

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY, NM

The final report of the health education needs assessment for the communities surrounding Los Alamos was received from the Rural Alliance for Military Accountability (RAMA). ATSDR staff are working with RAMA and the Tribal Watch Alliance to identify possible alternatives to address identified needs.

OAK RIDGE RESERVATION, TN

ATSDR staff participated in the Oak Ridge Health Agreement Steering Panel meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee. ATSDR staff met with members of the Oak Ridge Reservation Local Oversight Committee, local health departments, and residents to discuss ATSDR's community health education program for the Watts Barr Reservoir-Clinch River area.

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE, SC

The final report of the health education needs assessment for the Savannah River Plant was received from Citizens for Environmental Justice. ATSDR staff are working with Citizens for Environmental Justice and the Chatham County Health Department to identify possible alternatives to address identified needs.

TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILES

- The external review on the toxicological profile on uranium (including depleted uranium) has been completed. It is currently being revised based on reviewer comments.
- The toxicological profile on ionizing radiation is currently being prepared for external peer review.